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LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS STRENGTHENED

REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN announced that will strengthen and clarify State and local responsibility for school food service programs, in line with 1972 changes in law.

Putting into effect the changes that were made by P.L. 92-433, the new regulations do the following:

- Place the responsibility for controlling competitive food service at the State and local levels.
- Prohibit the certification of children for free and reduced-price meals on the basis of a categorical identification of a group of children.
- Revise provisions concerning free and reduced-price meal application requirements to facilitate the certification of foster children and children from families who are eligible due to special family hardships.
- Make some adjustments in the time allowed for authorities to meet their responsibilities in the administration of free and reduced-price meal policies.
- Clarify language regarding the maximum reimbursement rate of 14 cents per lunch.

● Eliminate the State Section apportionment formula and place lunch and breakfast funds on a performance funding system.

● Provide for advance payment of Federal funds for lunch programs.

● Set up uniform standards for free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.

NEW INCOME POVERTY GUIDELINES ISSUED

FNS ISSUED NEW INCOME poverty guidelines on May 15 to give school boards and administrators as much lead time as possible to plan and budget for the 1973-74 school year.

Use of the guidelines is mandatory for all schools in the National School Lunch Program, in the School Breakfast Program, or receiving federally donated foods, starting July 1, 1973. These guidelines establish the minimum level for free meals and require that all children from families at or below such levels shall be served a free meal.

In addition to the national guidelines, all State educational agencies are to set income guidelines for both free and reduced-price meals by family size for use by schools in their States. The

State guidelines may not be lower than those set by USDA and may not exceed the USDA guidelines by more than 25 percent for free meals, or 50 percent for reduced price meals.

The new guidelines are up some 3-1/2 percent from those for the 1972-73 school year. The income eligibility minimum for a family of four, for example, goes from \$4,110 to \$4,250.

The Free and Reduced Price Meal Handbook for use by State agencies and local school food authorities will be published soon. This handbook will be a valuable tool for schools to use in implementing the guidelines and the corresponding regulations, Part 245.

New Members For Advisory Council

SECRETARY EARL L. BUTZ has announced the appointment of two new members of the National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition, replacing earlier appointees whose terms of service have ended.

The Council was established by amendments to the Child Nutrition and National School Lunch Acts to make a continuing study of the Department's child feeding programs.

In accordance with the law's requirement that members be from specific fields of expertise, the new appointees who will serve 3-year terms are: LaMar King, High School Vocational Home Economics Teacher, Newark, Ohio; Dr. Nathan Smith, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.; and Carlos Saavedra, School Administrator, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Benjamin E. Carmichael, State Commissioner of Education, Nashville, Tenn., has been appointed to a 4-year term.

The outgoing members are: Cola D. Watson, Director, Vocation-Technical Education, Vermont Department of Education, Montpelier, Vt., and Ruth Huenemann, Professor of Public Health Nutrition, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

The new members will attend the next meeting of the Council, slated for July 19-20, in Washington.

FOOD STAMP CERTIFICATION SIMPLIFIED

AN AMENDMENT TO food stamp program regulations offers States a simplified procedure for verifying the income of non-public assistance households receiving Social Security benefits.

The amendment gives cooperating State agencies the option of verifying Social Security income reported by food stamp applicants through the Beneficiary Data Exchange (BENDEX), an automated data processing system operated by the Social Security Administration and administered in cooperation with the Social and Rehabilitation Service, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Currently 33 States are fully utilizing the BENDEX system.

State agencies using the system are also authorized to approve food stamp applications, based on Social Security income reported by the household, pending receipt of the verifying information through the BENDEX system.

Should Lowfat, Skim Milk Be Served?

SHOULD STUDENTS AND other participants in child nutrition programs be offered a choice of the types of milk served? Interested persons have been invited

to give USDA their comments on that question. Only fluid whole milk is allowed now.

In posing the question, FNS is responding to recommendations from the National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition Programs and other groups which have asked for this change in regulations.

To put this suggestion into effect, FNS is proposing to revise its regulations for the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Special Food Service Programs, so that the definition of "milk" would include lowfat, skim or cultured buttermilk, unflavored or flavored, in addition to fluid whole milk.

Comments, suggestions, or objections are invited from all interested persons, and should be mailed or delivered by July 5, to: Herbert D. Rorex, Director, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. All comments received will be available for public inspection.

Chicago Archdiocese Triples School Lunch Capability

IN A CONTINUING EFFORT to expand its school lunch program and to offer hot lunches to all its children, the Chicago Archdiocese on April 12 formally opened its second central kitchen. This new central kitchen can serve 245 area schools 75,000 lunches a day. Prior to the opening of the second central kitchen in April, 95 schools were served a total of 25,000 lunches a day.

In addition to serving lunches during the school year, lunches are "satelited" to schools and playgrounds oper-

ating special food service programs during the summer months.

SELF-SERVICE DISTRIBUTION IN MASS.

MASSACHUSETTS NOW HAS two self-service food distribution centers in Worcester and Brockton. Recipients say the new format gives them greater choice in selecting varieties and quantities of foods, and eliminates food lines. State officials say the self-service operations provide for better accountability and improved controls of inventory and food movement. Three and possibly four additional towns in Massachusetts are expected to start this supermarket concept soon.

OFF PRESS

- "Nutrients and Foods for Health (FNS-97), soon to be off press, lists important nutrients and their major functions and attractively pictures foods which are good sources of each nutrient. The 4-page, 8-1/2 x 11 inch leaflet will be sent directly to FNS regional offices and States for use in summer school lunch workshops.

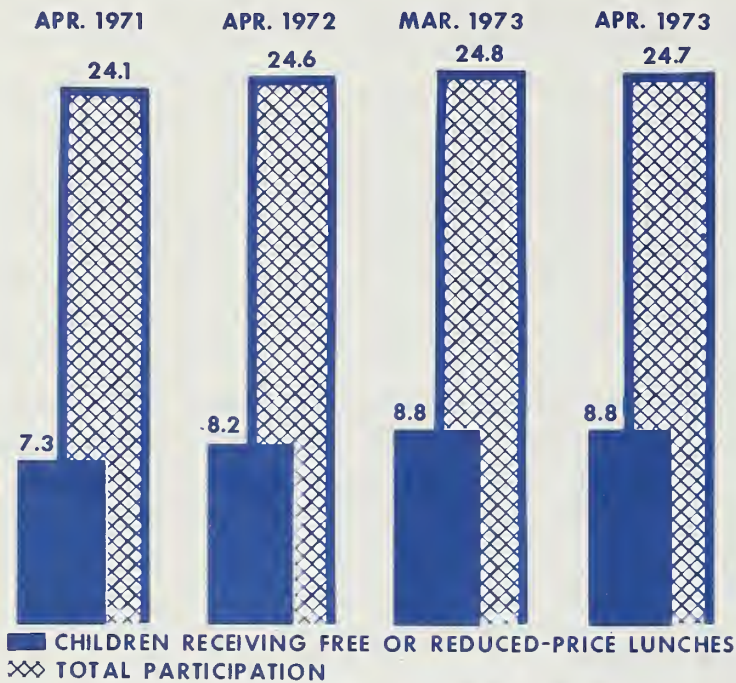
MEETINGS OF NOTE

- The United States Jaycees and the Michigan State Agency held very successful workshops for schools without food service on May 4 and 5. There was representation from 125 public and 225 private schools, and from local Jaycee chapters.

- In preparation for the opening of the food stamp program in Dallas--scheduled to begin on September 1--200 persons representing volunteer groups throughout the city met on May 25 to discuss volunteer work. The meeting, sponsored by the Dallas Council of

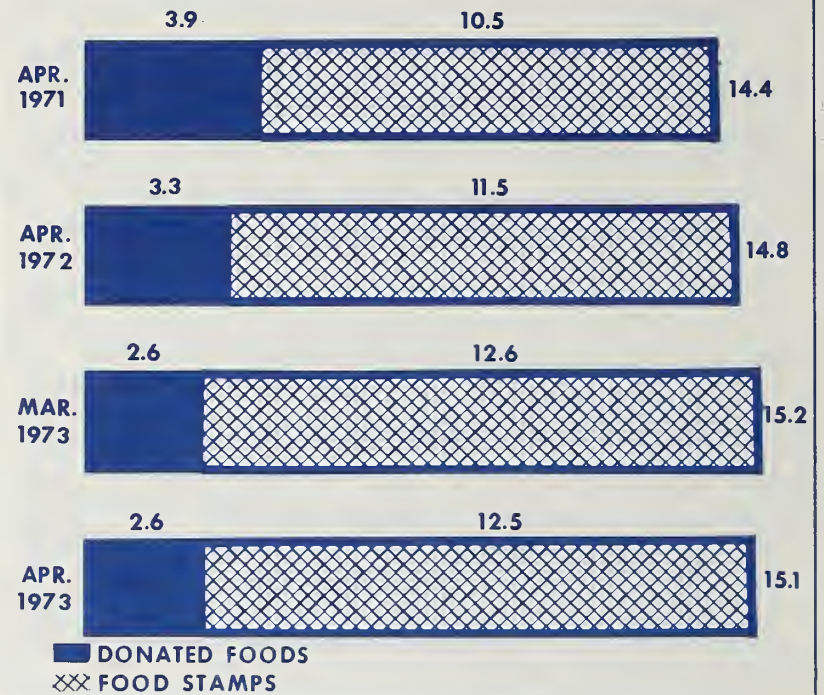
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

(Millions of Participants)



FAMILY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(Millions of Participants)



Churches Hunger Committee, the Texas Department of Public Welfare, and FNS, explained program operations to the volunteers.

SUMMER FEEDING FUNDS DOUBLE

FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE Summer Feeding Program this year are nearly double the expenditures for the program in 1972. The allocation is \$50.6 million; expenditures last year were \$28.6 million.

Preliminary allotments of \$43 million were made in March to enable States and FNS Regional Offices to act quickly on submitted applications, assess funding requirements for approved sponsors, and report commitments as of May 18 and June 1. Final allocations announced June 8 reflect funding adjustments resulting from program expansion in some States.

Reading Books

While Waiting For Food Stamps

WAITING TO BE CERTIFIED for the food stamp program in Greenville County, S.C., has been made a more pleasant experience. The Greenville County Public Library has provided all types of adult and children's books.

Michigan Starts

Equipment Clearinghouse

THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT of Education through their monthly publication, "Food Service News," plans on initiating a clearinghouse listing of unwanted, usable food service equipment. The special column will list the equipment, including the make, model number, size or capacity and dimensions--and who and where to contact. All interested parties will be requested to make their own contacts and determine the merits of the equipment in question.